



Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending August 26, 2007

CORN HARVEST UNDERWAY

Tennessee’s weather remained hot and dry last week with scattered beneficial showers finally arriving over the weekend. The rainfall that was received, however, did little to impact the drought conditions over the State. Corn for grain harvest has begun across the State with variable yields being reported. Soybean development continued to outpace last year and the 5-year average by two weeks. Some soybeans are being harvested and cotton defoliation has started. The cotton crop remains in mostly fair condition, with bolls opening at a pace of two and a half weeks ahead of normal. With over four-fifths of the tobacco crop topped, harvest was slightly ahead of schedule for the dark types. All crop and pasture conditions continued to deteriorate with the worst ratings for corn and soybeans since records began in 1985. Almost 90 percent of the State’s pastures were rated in very poor-to-poor condition. Livestock producers are still in critical need of rain to help re-fill creeks and ponds and to rejuvenate pastures. Producers took advantage of the dry weather to harvest tobacco and corn silage, while also preparing machinery for harvest.

There were 7 days last week considered suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 71 percent very short, 25 percent short, and 4 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 75 percent very short, 23 percent short, and 2 percent adequate. Temperatures were 7 to 11 degrees above the normal average, while rainfall continued to be well below average. Drought conditions remain extreme to exceptional over the majority of the State.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2006	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Corn – Mature	84	44	50	47	Corn	26	32	30	12	0
Corn – Harvested for Grain	16	n/a	8	6	Cotton	6	24	39	25	6
Corn – Harvested for Silage	72	60	72	64	Pastures	59	28	11	2	0
Cotton – Bolls Opening	53	20	11	14	Soybeans	35	30	24	11	0
Soybeans – Setting Pods	91	88	99	93	Tobacco	15	20	37	26	2
Soybeans – Dropping Leaves	33	14	17	10						
Tobacco – Topped	84	78	86	87						
Tobacco – Burley Harvested	33	25	36	35						
Tobacco – Dark Air-Cured Harvested	55	41	45	43						
Tobacco – Dark Fire-Cured Harvested	41	30	42	39						

n/a = not available

County Agent Comments

“Corn harvest has begun in earnest, with yields running better than expected for dryland; little irrigated corn has been shelled. Cotton potential is looking worse each day now with some fields already having defoliant applied. A small portion of the county received 1.5” of rain over the weekend which may help soybeans. Producers are considering haying soybeans.”

Richard Buntin, Crockett County

“Not much to add from the previous comments from other agents during the past several weeks. We are in the same situation with pastures, crops, and water. Beef producers in some areas are hauling water. We had a couple of grass fires over the weekend, but with the good work of local rescue squads; these were contained. The fire threat is something folks are becoming more aware of in our area.”

Troy Dugger, Hickman County

“Conditions are very, very bad. Water is becoming a bigger problem for Giles County than feed. Our office has received several reports of springs drying up that have never done so. Farmers are continuing to liquidate livestock mainly due to their water situation. Local sale barn refused some truck loads this week due to lack of space.”

Kevin Rose, Giles County

“Another week of record high temperatures, drying winds, and no rain has completely ruined any remaining pastures and destroyed any chance for a late cutting of hay. Producers are supplementing depleted pastures with hay. Hay supplies for winter feeding are being used now; producers are reducing or in some cases being forced to liquidate their herds. Drought stressed corn is drying down faster than producers can harvest the crop as silage. Water available for livestock is an increasing problem for area producers. There are reports of creeks drying up, springs failing and problems with wells. In summary, the situation is critical for all agriculture in our area.”

Bob Sliger, Monroe County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: August 26, 2007 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending August 26, 2007				Current Week 08/26/07	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
Ames_Plantation	102	69	85	9	0.36	1	19.50	-15.31	11.86	-9.18
Tri-City_RGNL_A	99	65	81	9	0.28	1	16.31	-11.73	10.79	-6.88
Brownsville_TN	107	72	87	10	0.00	0	18.06	-16.82	10.27	-10.81
Chattanooga/Lov	105	73	88	11	0.00	0	22.60	-13.12	15.35	-4.64
Clarksville_Sew	104	72	87	13	5.46	2	29.41	-4.28	20.29	0.25
Cookeville	104	68	83	10	0.42	2	22.52	-15.66	12.62	-10.53
Covington	99	70	84	8	0.00	0	23.12	-10.83	14.34	-5.93
Crossville_AP	98	67	82	11	0.42	2	23.94	-13.73	16.92	-5.73
Dayton	102	68	84	9	1.01	2	22.77	-14.80	16.14	-5.41
Dickson_AG	102	66	84	9	0.00	0	22.06	-13.81	12.47	-9.39
Dover_1W	102	70	86	12	0.00	0	21.53	-13.36	11.15	-9.84
Dyersburg	100	70	85	8	0.00	0	21.63	-11.67	12.55	-7.93
Erwin_1W	98	62	81	11	1.54	2	23.80	-10.34	18.18	-4.45
Huntingdon_Wate	103	70	87	11	0.00	0	16.64	-18.20	8.23	-12.85
Jackson_Exp_Stn	104	70	87	11	0.00	0	17.52	-17.04	8.84	-12.44
Kingston_AG	100	67	83	10	0.47	3	24.45	-15.07	16.25	-7.19
Knoxville_AP	102	73	86	12	0.01	1	21.61	-10.86	14.57	-4.58
Lewisburg	106	67	85	11	2.79	2	24.84	-11.85	17.21	-4.90
Lexington_TN	103	71	86	10	0.00	0	18.40	-15.38	8.81	-11.78
Linden	103	66	85	10	0.45	2	20.62	-16.54	11.46	-10.71
Martin	101	69	86	11	0.21	3	22.44	-12.72	11.47	-10.45
Mc_Minnville_Tn	103	71	86	11	0.53	4	22.48	-13.35	15.46	-5.95
Memphis_AG	102	70	87	7	0.07	1	22.04	-12.11	14.07	-6.59
Milan	104	67	86	11	0.00	0	19.32	-16.51	11.08	-11.13
Murfreesboro_5N	102	70	85	9	2.52	3	25.92	-9.54	15.04	-6.64
Nashville_Metro	103	73	88	12	0.05	3	17.54	-14.39	9.97	-9.72
Newcomb	99	66	82	11	0.17	1	24.60	-12.44	16.59	-6.58
Oneida	100	66	82	11	0.45	4	23.22	-13.82	15.72	-7.45
Portland_TN	102	71	87	12	0.19	1	23.13	-11.57	13.77	-7.63
Pulaski_Water_P	103	68	84	8	3.77	3	21.67	-14.86	12.63	-8.51
Savannah_6SW	105	70	87	10	0.40	2	20.99	-16.78	12.33	-9.98
Sparta_TN	103	68	85	11	0.00	0	21.46	-15.52	13.07	-9.34
Springfield	103	64	85	11	0.19	1	20.87	-12.42	11.98	-8.44
Springhill	106	68	86	11	1.01	3	21.74	-15.15	12.24	-10.04
Union_City	101	69	84	10	0.00	0	21.71	-12.57	11.50	-9.60
Waynesboro_TN	101	66	83	9	1.61	3	23.52	-15.24	15.33	-7.66

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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